

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
  
9. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method comprising the following steps:

taking a first elongated member; and forming an opening therein depending from one edge of said member to leave a single thickness band of material at said opening to reveal an interior surface of said first elongated member;

positioning a second member in said opening formed in said first elongated member so that said interior surface mates therewith; and

moving the first elongated member to move first and second edges of said opening formed in said first elongated member towards one another to a degree to trap and engage the second member in said opening.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said first and second edges are respectively moved so as to substantially close said opening and hence retain said second member in position in said opening.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said opening is completely closed by the provision of a closing member.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said second member is a former retained in position in said opening.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said opening is completely closed by the provision of weld material

19. (Currently Amended) A ~~mechanical joint~~ method according to Claim 9 wherein a forming means is provided initially in said opening and is subsequently moved out of said opening and replaced by said second member which is held in position in said opening in said first member to form the mechanical joint.

20. (Canceled)